

S. 2094 gives the Service the opportunity to sell certain wildlife goods now in storage through a public auction process. These auctions would only sell those goods that are legal to possess, and no items derived from endangered or threatened species would be available. By doing this, the stockpile will be reduced, better storage techniques would be implemented, and programs, like Cargo for Conservation, could be expanded to help educate thousands of additional students each year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sound piece of legislation and I compliment the author, Senator WAYNE ALLARD of Colorado, for his outstanding leadership in this matter. I urge an "aye" vote on S. 2094.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation. It is supported by the administration, and I want to thank Senator KEMPTHORNE and Senator CRAIG and the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) for their work. I am aware of no controversy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2505.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2505, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

FISH AND WILDLIFE REVENUE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2094) to amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to more effectively use the proceeds of sales of certain items.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2094

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to in this Act as the "Service")—

(A) is responsible for storage and disposal of items derived from fish, wildlife, and plants, including eagles and eagle parts, and other items that have become the property of the United States through abandonment or forfeiture under applicable laws relating to fish, wildlife, or plants;

(B) distributes many of those items for educational and scientific uses and for religious purposes of Native Americans; and

(C) unless otherwise prohibited by law, may dispose of some of those items by sale, except items derived from endangered or threatened species, marine mammals, and migratory birds;

(2) under law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, the revenue from sale of abandoned items is not available to the Service, although approximately 90 percent of the items in possession of the Service have been abandoned; and

(3) making revenue from the sale of abandoned items available to the Service will enable the Service—

(A) to cover costs incurred in shipping, storing, and disposing of items derived from fish, wildlife, and plants; and

(B) to make more extensive distributions of those items for educational, scientific, and Native American religious purposes.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to make proceeds from sales of abandoned items derived from fish, wildlife, and plants available to the Service and to authorize the use of those proceeds to cover costs incurred in shipping, storing, and disposing of those items.

SEC. 3. USE OF PROCEEDS OF CERTAIN SALES.

Section 3(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 742l(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking "Notwithstanding" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), notwithstanding"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) PROHIBITION ON SALE OF CERTAIN ITEMS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may not sell any species of fish, wildlife, or plant, or derivative thereof, for which the sale is prohibited by another Federal law.

"(3) USE OF REVENUES.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce may each expend any revenues received from the disposal of items under paragraph (1), and all sums referred to in the first sentence of section 11(d) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1540(d)) and the first sentence of section 6(d) of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3375(d))—

"(A) to make payments in accordance with those sections; and

"(B) to pay costs associated with—

"(i) shipping items referred to in paragraph (1) to and from the place of storage, sale, or temporary or final disposal, including temporary or permanent loan;

"(ii) storage of the items, including inventory of, and security for, the items;

"(iii) appraisal of the items;

"(iv) sale or other disposal of the items in accordance with applicable law, including auctioneer commissions and related expenses;

"(v) payment of any valid liens or other encumbrances on the items and payment for other measures required to clear title to the items; and

"(vi) in the case of the Secretary of the Interior only, processing and shipping of eagles and other migratory birds, and parts of migratory birds, for Native American religious purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present the House S. 2094, the Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act. This bill would amend the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 to enable the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to utilize funds obtained from the sale of certain abandoned or forfeited products.

Mr. Speaker, I know of no controversy with regard to this bill. I, therefore, will ask that the balance of my statement be placed in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2094. It is a good government bill and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS), who has authored the House bill, deserves credit for his diligence and devotion for getting this legislation passed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2094. This is simply a good Government bill. It allows the Fish and Wildlife Service to auction nonendangered wildlife products that have been confiscated by wildlife agents or the customs service for various reasons. The bill enables the proceeds of those sales to be used to cover the costs of shipping, storing, and disposing of confiscated wildlife products, and to facilitate the distribution of such products for educational or scientific purposes, or for Native American religious purposes.

Sadly, each year millions of dollars in illegal wildlife products are confiscated at our borders. This bill takes these lemons and makes lemonade by allowing some of these products to be used to raise revenue to enhance wildlife awareness and education, as well as to pay the more mundane costs of administering confiscated goods.

This is good legislation made better by the other body, whose amendment ensures that no products whose sale is otherwise prohibited by Federal law may be sold pursuant to this legislation.

The gentleman from Colorado, Mr. SKAGGS, who authored the House bill, deserves credit for his diligence and devotion to getting this legislation passed. This bill is as unassuming and effective and its House sponsor and I urge the House to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2094.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)